

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 IGA-02 SAM-01 SAB-01 /067 W

----- 010338

P R 051020Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 476

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1645

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, IS

SUBJ: GOI COMPLAINT AGAINST AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID (ANERA)

REF: 75 TEL AVIV 5699

1. SUMMARY: MSW OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT IF ANERA WISHES TO CONTINUE AID ACTIVITIES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, IT MUST COOPERATE WITH MSW. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MARCH 4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MSW) AVITSOUR CAME TO EMBASSY AT HIS REQUEST TO DISCUSS ACTIVITIES OF ANERA WITH EMBOFF (MCKUNE). AS DEPT AWARE, ANERA IS AMERICAN VOLUNTARY AGENCY WHICH RECEIVED FY 76 AID GRANT 1181 FOR \$576,020 TO BE USED IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR PALESTINIANS IN WEST BANK AND GAZA. ADDITIONAL LARGER GRANT IS BEING CONTEMPLATED FOR FY 77.

3. AVITSOUR STATED HE HAD LEARNED THAT DESPITE PREVIOUS PLEDGE OF COOPERATION WITH MSW, ANERA PROJECT DIRECTOR ROBERT FISHER FOR SEVERAL WEEKS HAD BEEN VISITING VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND PROMISING THEM AID WITHOUT PRIOR COORDINATION WITH MSW. AVITSOUR SAID HE HAD REQUESTED THAT

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FISHER COME TO SEE HIM AND IN MEETING REITERATED NECESSITY FOR

JOINT MSW-VOLUNTARY AGENCY DECISIONS ON AID EFFORTS. ACCORDING TO AVITSOUR, FISHER'S RESPONSE WAS UNSATISFACTORY AND WHEN AVITSOUR SUGGESTED THAT REPRESENTATIVE FROM MSW ACCOMPANY FISHER TO SOME OF ARAB INSTITUTIONS, FISHER BALKED AND SAID THAT HE PREFERRED TO GO ALONE.

4. AVITSOUR REFERRED TO FACT THAT ANERA IS ADMINISTERING AID FUNDS AND SAID THAT "HE KNEW IT TO BE AID POLICY THAT VOLUNTARY AGENCIES COOPERATE WITH GOI IN TERRITORIES". HE PRESENTED COPY OF FEB 11, 1976 AID LETTER FROM DAVID STEINBERG TO ERNEST GRIGG OF SAVE THE CHILDREN FEDERATION WHICH EVIDENTLY IS RECEIVING AID GRANT FOR USE IN GAZA. PARA FOUR OF LETTER READS "ISRAELI GOVERNMENT APPROVAL-IT WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CDF (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FEDERATION) TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR THE PROJECT FROM THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. WE REGARD THIS AS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT".

5. AVITSOUR SAID THAT IF ANERA WISHES TO CONTINUE WORK IN TERRITORIES, IT MUST COOPERATE WITH MSW JUST AS ALL OTHER PRIVATE AGENCIES AND INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE GROUPS DO. HE DEFINED COOPERATION AS INCLUDING A) JOINT DECISIONS ON SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS SO THAT MSW COULD ADMINISTER COMBINED EFFORTS OF ALL AGENCIES; B) COMMON PROGRAMS WITH MSW, NOT PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS OR PRIOR PROMISES OF FUNDS WITHOUT MSW KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL; AND C) FULL COORDINATION NOT ONLY IN MSW OFFICES BUT ALSO IN THE FIELD. AVITSOUR SAID THAT IF ANERA COOPERATION WERE NOT FORTHCOMING, GOI WOULD REGRETFULLY BE COMPELLED TO REQUEST EMBASSY AND AID TO WITHDRAW SUPPORT FOR ANERA PROGRAM.

6. AVITSOUR CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE HAD BEEN ADVISED BY MILITARY GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL THAT ANERA MATTER WAS BEING TAKEN UP IN FOREIGN MINISTRY. (WE HAVE NOT YET HEARD FROM MFA) HE ALSO SAID THAT HE INTENDED TO MEET FISHER AGAIN ON MARCH 8 TO ADVISE HIM THAT ANERA'S COOPERATION IS NECESSARY TO CONTINUATION OF ACTIVITIES.

7. EMBASSY IS ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT FISHER PRIOR TO MARCH 8 TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS WITH HIM. WE WILL REPORT SUCH CONVERSATION. WITH REGARD QUESTION VOLAG RELATIONS WITH MILITARY GOVERNMENT, LANGUAGE US AID LETTER QUOTED ABOVE SEEMS TO GO CONFIDENTIAL

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SOMEWHAT BEYOND WHAT WE HAVE UNDERSTOOD CURRENT PRACTICE TO BE. WE BELIEVE VOLAG SHOULD WORK IN CONCERT WITH MILITARY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND KEEP THEM INFORMED BUT NOT GIVE THEM POWER OF VETO OVER EACH AND EVERY ACTIVITY. DEPT'S GUIDANCE WOULD BE APPRECIATED. TOON

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